

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (previously amended) A method for automatic firmware image recovery, comprising:
 - determining that a firmware image for server management operational code in a recipient system needs to be replaced;
 - sending a message over a network by the recipient system, wherein the message requests a compatible replacement firmware image;
 - negotiating with a donor system based on a received acknowledgement that the donor system has a compatible image, using a predetermined policy to select the donor system from a set of at least one donor system having a compatible image, wherein at least one donor server of the set of at least one donor system sends an acknowledgement to the recipient system in response to the sent message;
 - uploading a compatible image sent by the donor system to the recipient system; and
 - updating the recipient system firmware with the uploaded compatible image.
2. (previously amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein negotiating comprises:
 - receiving a message request by at least one donor system in the network;
 - determining whether the donor system has a compatible image;
 - when the donor system has a compatible image, sending an acknowledgement and offer to the recipient system; and
 - then performing the uploading of the compatible image to the recipient system.

3. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the network is selected from the group consisting of a wired and unwired network.

4. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the message is sent via an out-of-band (OOB) connection.

5. (original) The method as recited in claim 4, wherein a baseboard management controller residing on the recipient system is capable of communicating to donor systems via at least one communication means, wherein the communication means is selected from a group consisting of a local area network (LAN), a wireless access point, a wired inter-chassis management bus (ICMB), and a Bluetooth® protocol wireless network.

6. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the donor system comprises a management console.

7. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the donor system comprises a peer server in the network.

8. (previously amended) A machine accessible medium containing instructions that, when executed, cause a machine to:

determine that a firmware image for server management operational code in a recipient system needs to be replaced;

send a message over a network, wherein the message requests a compatible replacement firmware image;

negotiate with a donor system based on a received acknowledgement that the donor system has a compatible image, using a predetermined policy to select the donor system from a set of at least one donor system having a compatible image, wherein at least one donor system of the set of at least one donor system sends an acknowledgement to the recipient system in response to the sent message;

upload a compatible image sent by the donor system to the recipient system; and
update the recipient system firmware with the uploaded compatible image.

9. (original) The machine accessible medium as recited in claim 8, wherein the network is selected from a group consisting of a wired and unwired network.

10. (original) The machine accessible medium as recited in claim 8, wherein the message is sent via an out-of-band (OOB) connection.

11. (original) The machine accessible medium as recited in claim 10, wherein a baseboard management controller residing on the recipient system is capable of communicating to donor systems via at least one communication means, wherein the communication means is selected from a group consisting of a local area network (LAN), a wireless access point, a wired inter-chassis management bus (ICMB), and a Bluetooth® protocol wireless network.

12. (original) The machine accessible medium as recited in claim 8, wherein the donor system comprises a management console.

13. (original) The machine accessible medium as recited in claim 8, wherein the donor system comprises a peer server in the network.

14. (previously amended) A machine accessible medium containing instructions that, when executed, cause a machine to:

receive a message over a network, the message sent by a recipient system requesting an updated firmware image;

determine by a donor system whether a compatible image to the requested updated firmware image is available;

when the donor system has a compatible image, negotiate with the recipient system, the recipient system to use a predetermined policy to select the donor system from at least one donor system having a compatible image; and

when the donor system is selected from the at least one donor system having a compatible image, upload the compatible image to the recipient system.

15. (original) The machine accessible medium as recited in claim 14, wherein negotiating comprises instructions that cause the machine to:

send an acknowledgement offer to the recipient system; and

receive an acceptance acknowledgement for the offer.

16. (previously amended) A system for automatic firmware image update, comprising:

a recipient server having at least one processor;

a baseboard management controller (BMC) operatively coupled to the at least one processor, wherein the BMC comprises a BMC processor, a memory operatively coupled to the BMC processor, a communication interface enabling at least one of wireless network, chassis management bus and local area network communication; and

executable code loaded in memory accessible to the BMC processor that when executed enables the BMC to:

determine whether operational firmware requires update;

send a request for an updated image via a network communication interface to a donor server in the network;

negotiate with the donor server for a compatible image using a predetermined policy to select the donor server from a set of at least one donor server having a compatible image; and

load an updated compatible image in non-volatile memory on the BMC.

17. (original) The system as recited in claim 16, wherein the request is sent via an out-of-band (OOB) connection.

18. (original) The system as recited in claim 16, wherein the donor system comprises a management console.

19. (original) The system as recited in claim 16, wherein the donor system comprises a peer server in the network.

20. (currently amended) A method for providing a firmware image, comprising:
receiving a message over a network, the message sent by a recipient system requesting an updated firmware image;
determining by a donor system whether a compatible image is available;
when the donor system has a compatible image, negotiating with the recipient system using a predetermined policy to select the donor system from at least one donor system having a compatible image; and
~~if~~ when the donor system is selected from the at least one donor system having a compatible image, uploading the compatible image to the recipient system.

21. (original) The method as recited in claim 20, wherein negotiating comprises:
sending an acknowledgement offer to the recipient system; and
receiving an acceptance acknowledgement for the offer.

22. (original) The method as recited in claim 20, wherein the network is selected from the group consisting of a wired and unwired network.

23. (original) The method as recited in claim 20, wherein the message is sent via an out-of-band (OOB) connection.

24. (original) The method as recited in claim 20, wherein the donor system comprises a management console.

25. (original) The method as recited in claim 20, wherein the donor system comprises a peer server in the network.